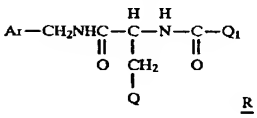
be used in chronic administration and are thus quite safe. The compounds of the present invention exhibit none or minimal effects on the liver.

Thus, the compounds of the present invention exhibit an excellent drug profile. They meet all of the four characteristics outlined heretofore, high potency, low neurological toxicity relative to its potency, high protective index and minimal liver toxicity. The compounds of the present invention are substantially non-toxic to the liver. These compounds of the present invention exhibit advantages that have not heretofore been realized. They therefore can be used in a treatment regimen requiring administration thereof over extended periods of time (chronic administration).

The above preferred embodiments and examples are given to illustrate the scope and spirit of the present invention. The embodiments and examples described herein will make apparent to those skilled in the art other embodiments and examples. These other embodiments and examples are within the contemplation of the present invention. Therefore, the present invention should be limited only by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A compound in the R configuration having the formula:



R

wherein

Ar is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one halo group;

Q is lower alkoxy, and

Q_1 is methyl.

2. The compound according to claim 1 which is substantially enantiopure.

3. The compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is lower alkoxy containing 1–3 carbon atoms.

4. The compound according to claim 3 wherein Q is methoxy.

5. The compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar is unsubstituted phenyl.

6. The compound according to claim 1 wherein halo is fluoro.

7. The compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is alkoxy containing 1–3 carbon atoms and Ar is unsubstituted phenyl.

8. The compound according to claim 1 which is (R)-N-Benzyl 2-Acetamido-3-methoxypropionamide.

9. The compound according to claim 8 which contains at least 90% (w/w) R stereoisomer.

10. A therapeutic composition comprising an anticonvulsant effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1–9 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

11. A method of treating central nervous system disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal in need thereof an anticonvulsant effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1–9.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the animal is a mammal.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the mammal is a human.

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